



## **SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Thursday, November 21, 2013**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Coon Rapids City Center**

**Conference Room 3**

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### **Call to Order**

### **Roll Call**

### **Adopt Agenda**

Minutes

### **Old Business**

1. Community Workshop Review

### **New Business**

2. Commission Checklist
3. Sustainability Report Phase 2
4. MN GreenSteps City program

### **Other Business**

### **Adjourn**



**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**Meeting Date:** 11/21/2013

**SUBJECT:** Minutes

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**Attachments**

9/19/2013

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The September 19, 2013 meeting of the Sustainability Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Stacey Demmer at the Coon Rapids City Hall.

Sustainability Members Present: Don Stauffer, Bob Krahn, Stacey Demmer, Marcia Baudino, Chris Backes, Joeleen Famoso, Ed Dedman, Pam Foster

Members Absent: Dave King  
Staff Present: Colleen Sinclair

#### 1. ACCEPT AGENDA

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MOTION BY PAM FOSTER, SECONDED BY ED DEDMAN, TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED AGENDA, ADDING A PRESENTATION FROM THE ST. ANOTHONY VILLAGE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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MOTION BY DON STAUFFER, SECONDED BY PAM FOSTER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15th SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 3. PRESENTATION FROM CLIFF AND BETTY WARE, ST. ANOTHONY VILLAGE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

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Betty and Cliff Ware from the St. Anthony Village Sustainability spoke of the group they started in their City. They wanted to share their story and successes with the commission in hopes they could be of assistance at anytime in bringing more opportunities and successes to our City. St. Anthony currently does not have a sustainability or environmental commission. They are a self motivated group of residents who wanted to see change within their city. They work with outside organizations and the City council and have had a great success in bringing sustainable change to their city. Their City is quite smaller than Coon Rapids, under 10,000 residents and is a much easier City and system to conquer. However, some great ideas were exchanged and this group will be a great “tool” for us to have as we move forward.

#### 4. 2013-2014 WORK PLAN

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A list was created and was sent to commission members via email to rate priority in work projects. Each member was to rate the list, and the results were brought to the September meeting. The following schedule will be followed as we approach the upcoming months with hopes to be completed by year end or early 2014...

1. Create a sustainable practices checklist for other City commission to use as they go about their project conversations. This does not eliminate a step in projects going before each commission as necessary; it just gives some basic practices to use during the planning process to ensure sustainability is in the thought process during each conversation.
2. Phase 2 of the Sustainability Report. Adding graphs and charts to create a baseline so as we move our City forward we can show progress and measure success. Possible expand and add gardening to the report as the topic is so important in our activities as we move forward and a popular topic by our residents.
3. St. Anthony Village meeting, this was completed in Septmeber.
4. The commission would like to add one site visit each quarter to a location that supports our work. For example a recycling facility, energy plant, water plant, etc...they feel the more they are educated the more they can offer the City.
5. Update our mission statement. Now that the commission has a few years under its belt, they would like to update the mission statement to better reflect their purpose to the city and residents.
6. The Commission would like to become Heart Certified. Training will be arranged in early January.

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Items still on the list that work is unscheduled for are:

1. Finish meeting with City departments. This allows City staff to understand what the commission is and how they may be able to utilize the group, and vice versa.
  2. Solar code, rain barrel and rain garden ordinances. These practices are becoming more popular with our residents and the City currently does not have practices in place to assure best practices are used. This also supports new legislative efforts just passed.
  3. International Green Construction follows upcoming legislative topics.
  4. Welcome packets, look into what we are currently doing to get information and resources out to residents .
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5. OTHER BUSINESS

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6. ADJOURN

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MOTION BY ED DEDMAN, SECONDED BY CHRIS BACKES, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:30 P.M.  
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted  
Colleen Sinclair, Staff Liaison



**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**1.**

**Meeting Date:** 11/21/2013

**Subject:** Community Workshop Review

**From:** Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

We will re-cap both workshops held in October. The roundtable community discussion as well as the winter energy savings workshop.

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**Attachments**

**Roundtable**

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About twenty persons gathered at a roundtable discussion designed to give citizens an opportunity to share ideas with the Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission. The group considered the following question:

What are the best ideas to advance sustainable living in our city?



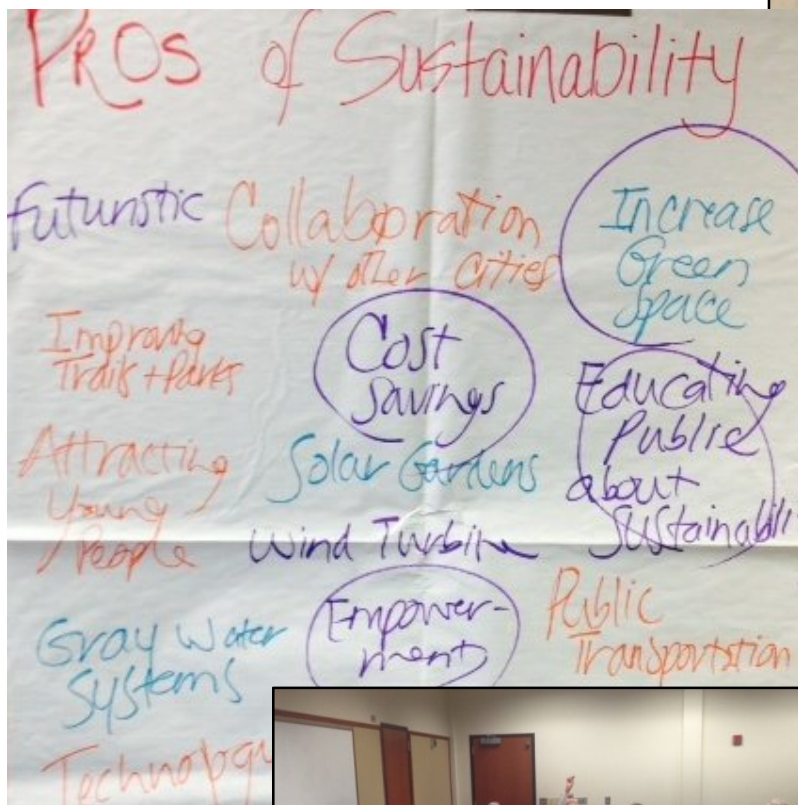
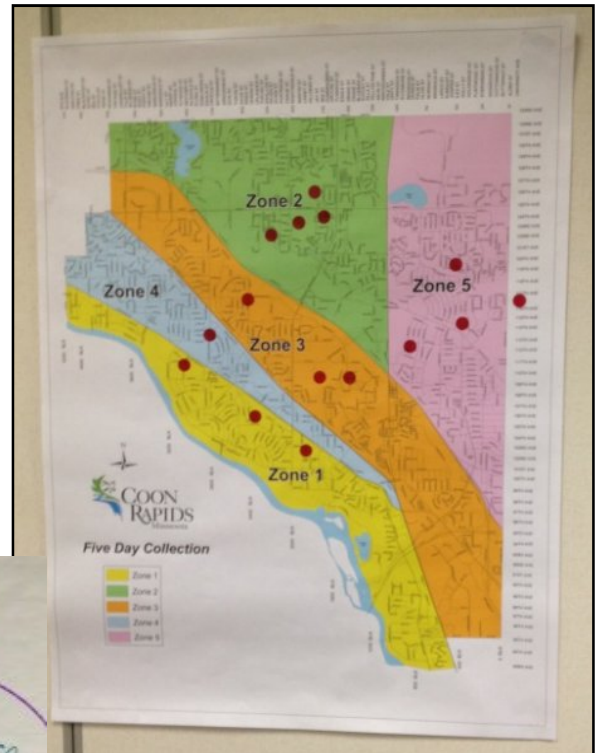
The Sustainability Commission will be using the results of the meeting to help determine its priorities and goals for 2014.

The Group utilized the City of Coon Rapids Facilitators, who designed the workshop to capture all the ideas generated, and reach consensus about which ones are the most important ones that would advance sustainability in Coon Rapids.

What are the  
**BEST IDEAS**  
to advance  
**SUSTAINABLE**  
**LIVING**  
In Our City?

All participants were asked to introduce themselves, state what area of the City they were from, and to mention one thing they liked about living here.

Then, in order to get the group thinking about the question, they reflected on the positives about sustainability efforts in our City. What is good about sustainability? What are the benefits to you, your family, and our community?



### PROS OF SUSTAINABILITY

- Futuristic
- Collaboration with Others
- Increase Green Space
- Improved Trails and Parks
- Cost Saving
- Value of Education
- Solar Gardens
- Attracting Young People
- Gray Water Systems
- Empowerment
- Public Transportation Benefits
- Technology Benefits
- Wind Turbines

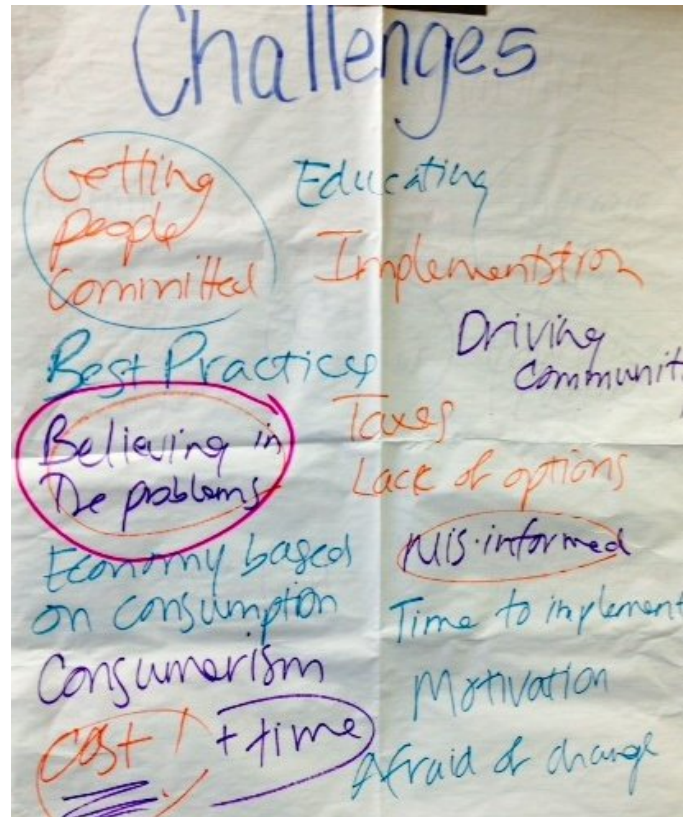




Next, the group looked at some challenges. What challenges do we face in advancing sustainability in Coon Rapids? Why is it sometimes difficult to move forward on sustainability initiatives?

### CHALLENGES

Getting People Committed  
Education Implementation  
Driving Community Best Practices  
Believing in the Problems  
Taxes Lack of Options  
Misinformed  
Economy Based on Consumption  
Consumerism Cost! and Time  
Motivation Time to Implement  
Afraid of change



### Interpreting These Reflections

The group then met in small groups to consider ideas to promote sustainability in our community.





Following that, each group presented its findings to the large group, which discussed which were the “best” ideas to answer the question.

## Decisional

Here were the results. Five categories were created, with a number of action items in each category:

<b><u>Education &amp; Publicity*</u></b>	<b><u>City Initiatives*</u></b>	<b><u>Business</u></b>	<b><u>Creating Community</u></b>	<b><u>Utilities</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tour best practice homes, gardens as examples</li> <li>- Engaging experts</li> <li>- Community workshops</li> <li>- Education trusted speakers, associations, clubs and groups</li> <li>- Speakers bureau (local) for sustainability</li> <li>- Marketing &amp; advertising: flyers, billboards, signs</li> <li>- Door to door campaigns</li> <li>- Educational seminars</li> <li>- “Night to promote sustainability in neighborhoods”: similar to “Night to Unite” in neighborhoods</li> <li>- Containing nitrogen</li> <li>- Green Expo</li> <li>- Adult/Youth mentoring/sharing partnership</li> <li>- Promote reusing</li> <li>- Better ways of educating: newspaper, online</li> <li>- Advertising- signs, bumper stickers, neighborhood talks</li> <li>- Using native MN plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waiving permit fees for conservation improvements</li> <li>- Tool lending library: other cities already doing this, shared items to reduce individual need</li> <li>- Transportation: green vehicles, trails, bike racks</li> <li>- Building codes education: building/rebuilding</li> <li>- Government involvement: tax incentives, office (ex. Forester) available for individuals</li> <li>- Collaboration with cities and counties in local area</li> <li>- City made rain gardens (education)</li> <li>- City lead by example: energy conservation, policies, recycling/organics, etc</li> <li>- YEAR of sustainability: entire city focused on it for a year</li> <li>- Public recycling: more bins and consistency</li> <li>- Weekly recycling (not biweekly)</li> <li>- Sponsor a storm drain: to clean and maintain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attract Greener Businesses: tax incentives? Other incentives to draw businesses to Coon Rapids area</li> <li>- Incentives, encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices and partnerships</li> <li>- Coon Rapids certified, sustainable homes and businesses in area- some sort of audit process/certification (similar to LEED possibly)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More bike racks: especially Riverdale Area</li> <li>- Volunteering: people to demonstrate, drive people to recycling center, etc.</li> <li>- Celebrating “wins”: acknowledging people, companies who are “green”</li> <li>- Buying local</li> <li>- Promote neighborhood collaborations, sharing of equipment, bartering: forum for this to occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Return on Investment</li> <li>- Water conservation for businesses and individuals: how to do it and benefits</li> <li>- Alternative Energy: options and processes to get them</li> <li>- Solar Gardens</li> <li>- Free energy audits: homes to reduce energy use</li> <li>- Low cost green options</li> </ul>



**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**2.**

**Meeting Date:** 11/21/2013

**Subject:** Commission Checklist

**From:** Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

The Commission will create a check list for other City departments or Commissions to use as they plan their projects. It will ensure sustainable practices are used during project planning and bring more efficiency to the system. Once a list is created, City staff will give input and edit as needed.

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**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**3.**

**Meeting Date:** 11/21/2013

**Subject:** Sustainability Report Phase 2

**From:** Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

Phase 2 of the Sustainability report will include reports and graphs to create a baseline and show measurement as the commission moves forward to a more sustainable City.

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**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**4.**

**Meeting Date:** 11/21/2013

**Subject:** MN GreenSteps City program

**From:** Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

City staff is currently researching the MN GreenSteps program. We will determine which level City Coon Rapids is, and determine what our current level would be in the program, then decide if this is a program the City should take part in. MN GreenSteps is a program that lays the framework for a City to follow to lead a sustainable program city wide. It has many very useful tools within the program that mesh with programs and projects that are already in place. There are no costs for becoming a GreenStep City.

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